

Commander's Call Topics



Nov. 27, 2009

"Happy Holidays! Whether you are deployed, stationed overseas or living in the U.S., each of you should enjoy the season and celebrate in your own special way. However, we encourage you to celebrate responsibly. The Air Force needs you back at work, but more importantly, your friends and family need you in their lives. As the Air Force observes the Year of the Air Force Family, we ask you to consider how the results of your personal risk-related decisions and actions might affect your family and friends. What better gift can you give than to arrive home safely for the holidays?"

- Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz from their [Holiday Safety Memo](#)

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[Air Force leaders speak at 2009 Global Warfare Symposium](#)

Air Force senior leaders discussed the service's priorities, capabilities and vision in space, cyberspace and strategic deterrence at the recent 2009 Air Force Association Global Warfare Symposium. The topics created an overall composite of the deliberate steps the service is taking to provide worldwide support to the joint warfighter in a 21st century battle space.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[New physical fitness standards effective July 1, biannual testing begins Jan. 1](#)

The effective date for the revised fitness program is now July 1, 2010. Biannual testing under the current fitness standards are still scheduled to begin Jan. 1. The six-month delay is a result of feedback obtained from the field that found implementing the new program in July 2010 would lead to a smoother transition and allow commanders adequate time to establish installation fitness assessment cells.

Information on the Air Force fitness program is online at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/affitnessprogram/index.asp.

[AFSPC commander bids farewell to three missile wings](#)

Gen. C. Robert Kehler, commander of Air Force Space Command, recently said farewell to three missile wings and the strategic deterrent mission. The move of the 90th Missile Wing, 91st Missile Wing, and 341st Missile Wing to Air Force Global Strike Command is part of an Air Force plan to consolidate strategic nuclear resources, including those from Air Combat Command and Air Force Space Command, under a single commander.

Space and missile wings have been part of AFSPC since 1993, but as part of the Air Force's nuclear roadmap, combining strategic nuclear deterrence and global strike capabilities under a single major-command-level organization will better serve the needs of combatant commanders worldwide.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force Global Strike Command officials hiring now for top priority mission](#)

AFGSC officials are aggressively working to hire the best people available for one of the Air Force's top priorities: reinvigorating the nuclear enterprise. Active-duty, civilians, Guard and Reserve, especially those with nuclear experience, are being encouraged to apply for positions at AFGSC headquarters at Barksdale AFB, La., and at the units that fall under 8th and 20th Air Forces in six other states.

Military members interested in joining the command should update their assignment preference worksheets, look for announcements on the [AFPC Web site](#), and discuss options with their respective assignment managers. Civilians interested in a position at AFGSC can visit the civilian [AFPC Web site](#) (click on the state of Louisiana), or [USAJobs](#) Web site.

Air Force officials enhance community support information

Effective Dec. 1, the Air Force Crossroads Web site will transition to an Air Force hosted portal www.usafservices.com. USAFServices.com will offer official community information, secure Spouse Forums, and social networking applications. Additionally, Department of Defense Web portals, [Military One Source](#) and [Military Home Front](#), will continue to provide valuable information and referral resources and social networking communities to Air Force families.

Squadron Officer College staff offers new distance learning courses

Squadron Officer College will be offering four new distance learning course to company grade officers beginning in 2010. The four courses are titled Foundations of Officership, Flight Commander, Expeditionary Leadership and Organizational Leadership. They are self-paced, and students have up to six months to complete them. For more information, visit www.au.af.mil/au/soc/cgolp.html.

Officials seek past, present Academy nominees for award

Officials from the Center for Character and Leadership Development are soliciting nominees for the 2009 Malham M. Wakin Character and Leadership Development Award. The Wakin Award is presented to personnel assigned to the U.S. Air Force Academy, both past and present, to include individuals or teams who have made significant contributions for character and leadership development among cadets by their example as well as influence. Forward nominations to ncls@usafa.edu by Jan. 8, 2010.

Nominees sought for Air Force Sergeant's Association Pitsenbarger Award

The annual AFSA Pitsenbarger Award recognizes an Air Force enlisted servicemember who has performed a heroic act, on or off duty that resulted in saving a life or preventing serious injury to another person or persons. The award period is Jan. 1, 2009 through Dec. 31, 2009.

Nominees must be active duty, the National Guard, or Air Force Reserve. For more information, visit AFPC's "[Ask](#)" Web site or call the 24-hour Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

UNIFORMS

Physical training uniform made in America

Air Force officials partnered with American industry to ensure the new physical fitness uniform is not only upgraded with better material and functionality, but also is 100 percent American made.

GUARD AND RESERVE

Mullen sees operational structure in Guard's future

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says the National Guard's transformation from a strategic reserve to an operational force since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, should continue beyond the current conflicts.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

Don't let safety get lost in holiday hustle, bustle

Mishap prevention measures recommended by safety officials are: Have and be a good wingman; know what your "good" travel plan is; know that drinking and driving don't mesh; know that seatbelt use is mandatory; know that personal protection equipment when riding a motorcycle are essential for your survival; and make sure your commander and your supervisor know where you are and how you're getting there.

Air Force Safety Center officials build awareness with family campaign

The first public service announcement has been released which emphasizes the importance of family members helping the Air Force keep Airmen safe when they're off-duty. The video is available for viewing on the Air Force Safety Center Web site at <http://www.afsc.af.mil>.

Staying fit during the holidays

Simple steps can ensure not overeating during the holiday season: portion food ahead of time; eat slower; use smaller plates; and prepare a fruit or vegetable platter as an appetizer before the main course.

WARRIOR CARE

November is Warrior Care Month: Warrior Care Month is a DOD-wide effort aimed at increasing awareness of programs and resources available to wounded, ill and injured service members, their families and those who care about them. Visit the Air Force Wounded Warrior Web site at: <http://www.woundedwarrior.af.mil/>.

Wounded warrior program continues assisting Airmen and their families

Air Force leaders remain committed to the service's top investments: Airmen and their families. In support of a Defense Department initiative to return wounded warriors to productive military service or civilian life, Air Force officials here have revised several personnel policies.

The policy change focuses on classification, promotions, evaluations, retraining and retention. It allows wounded Airmen to continue their careers and compete for promotion while undergoing treatment and rehabilitation. Those Airmen who are no longer able to continue in their career field, due to disqualifying conditions, will be afforded priority retraining opportunities so they can continue contributing to the Air Force.

Online Deployment-Exposure Education

Smoke, pollution and pesticides are only a few of the hazards that may be encountered during deployment, and it is common to have questions about their health effects. To help address these concerns, several organizations offer exposure education. This information can be accessed online from the [Deployment Health Clinical Center](#) and the [War Related Injury and Illness Study Center](#). Individuals who believe they have symptoms related to exposures should discuss their concerns with a health-care provider. For more post-deployment health information, visit <https://kx.afms.mil/pdhra>.

RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Air Force Community

<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>

Air Force Highlights

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/usafhighlights/index.asp>

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

Military HOMEFRONT

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

Year of the Air Force Family

<http://www.af.mil/yoaff/index.asp>

www.MyAirForceLife.com

Air Force Personnel Center

<http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

Air Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

Department of Defense

<http://www.defense.gov>

Department of Defense News

<http://www.defenselink.mil>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Web site

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

This Week in Air Force History

Nov. 29, 1951 – Air Force announced development of the XB-52, its first all-jet heavy bomber.

Nov. 29, 1975 – The first Red Flag exercise began at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., ushering in a new era of highly realistic air combat training for USAF pilots.

Dec. 1, 1959 – The first Airmen assumed the top enlisted rank, chief master sergeant.

Dec. 1, 1984 – The C-5A Galaxy entered service with the U.S. Air Force Reserve at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas.

Dec. 2, 1993 – Col. Richard O. Covey, pilot and mission commander, piloted the fifth flight of the shuttle Endeavor, which set a record for the greatest number of spacewalks -- five. On the same flight Lt. Col. Tom Akers became the U.S. record holder for spacewalks with 29 hours and 40 minutes.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit the Air Force Link heritage section at

<http://www.af.mil/information/heritage>.

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